



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release
Friday, December 17, 1999

DOYLE ANNOUNCES MONROE COUNTY WATER READY FOR NEW MILLINNEUM

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today joined Director of Monroe County's Water Authority (MCWA), John Stanwix, in announcing the successful completion of a standard five step approach to evaluating the MCWA's Y2K preparedness.

"Monroe County residents can be confident that their water system is Y2K prepared and that the high quality and abundant supply of water to which they are accustomed will continue into the new millennium," said Doyle.

"Our customers should know that, historically, we have already experienced County-wide power outages and communications losses during the Ice Storm of 1991 and the Labor Day Storm of 1998. In both instances there was no interruption in water supply even though electrical power was not fully restored for five days," said Stanwix. "Our systems have been checked, tested, and rechecked and we are ready for the New Year."

The standard five-step approach to testing Y2K preparedness includes awareness, assessment, fixing, testing/validation, and implementation. The MCWA's internal systems were tested and verified to be Y2K ready as of last January 6, 1999. Since that time the MCWA has been evaluating its reliance on entities outside of its control and developing contingency plans to cover interruptions or loss of related services. The most critical of these are electrical power, chemicals, communications, and fuel supplies.

"Even though we share the electrical industry's confidence that there will not be any interruption to electric or gas services, we have developed special Y2K contingency plans," said Stanwix. "These include stocking thirty days worth of critical chemicals and readying the system to supply water to all customers in the unlikely event the entire County loses electrical power."

- MORE -

Contingency planning for the New Year transition includes maintaining full water reserves, maintaining additional staffing, generators, fuel and chemical inventories, backup communications systems, and participation in emergency preparedness operations.

In November, MCWA simulated the effects of a total, Countywide power loss by shutting down production for two days and actually implementing its 'worst-case' contingency plans. The drill was accomplished under full demands and without compromising water quality or supply. If an unanticipated severe level of failure were to actually occur, the MCWA's water reserves are prepared to meet customer's water needs for five to seven days.

Monroe County's water system includes 1,750 miles of pipeline and supplies 55 million gallons of water a day to more than 600,000 people.

###

*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
See us on the web at www.co.monroe.ny.us*